

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 4, 8-11, 22, 23, 25-28, 31-50, 52-56, 62 and 68-70 have been examined.

Claims 1, 4, 8-11, 22, 23, 25-28, 31, 32, 36-50, 52-56, 62 and 68-70 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, and without conceding to the Examiner's arguments, Applicant has canceled, *without prejudice or disclaimer*, rejected claims 1, 4, 8-11, 22, 23, 25-28, 31, 32, 36-50, 52-56, 62 and 68-70. Thus, Applicant submits that the rejections of such claims are now moot. Further, Applicant has rewritten allowable claim 33 into independent form by incorporating features of claim 1. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 33-35 are now in condition for immediate allowance.

Also, on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner maintains that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 29, 2003 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2). However, as set forth in the paper, Applicant submitted English Abstracts for all non-English foreign references. Further, there is no other "information" that caused the information to be listed, and therefore, *in accordance with the rules*, Applicant paid the petition fee of \$180.00. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Examiner's refusal to review the Information Disclosure is improper. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner or the Examiner's Supervisor, Mr. Stephen Meier, to contact the undersigned for further discussion if the refusal to review the Information Disclosure Statement still stands.

In view of the above, allowance of this application is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
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interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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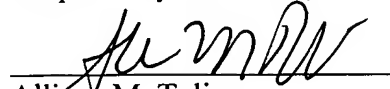
WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 29, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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